

MOUTHS OF KIDDLE CRITERS - 1/12/2003

(From a critique group):

“Unique Monique’s school was very strict,” said Hannah.

“Yeah, they had to wear uniforms,” said Lily.

“Well, if I were Monique, I wouldn’t like to wear a uniform. I’d like to wear my own clothes,” said Meg.

“I don’t think Monique’s school was fair,” said Pritka.

“I agree,” said Miguel

“And, I don’t get it,” said Keisha. “Why couldn’t the kids wear hair bands? What if it’s hot out?”

“Yeah, some days are really scorchers,” said Zach. “I think it was a little silly that they couldn’t have hats, too.”

“The teachers and the principal were not being fair,” said Meg.

Hannah frowned and nodded. “They can get away with whatever they want, but the kids can’t,” she said.

“Some teachers wear dresses and not uniforms,” said Gina.

“I know why the teachers don’t wear uniforms,” said Cara. “Maybe they can’t find their sizes.” Everyone laughed.

“I think Monique just wanted to be unique,” said Hannah.

Zach nodded. “Unique means you just want to stand out . . . so you don’t look the same as everyone,” he said.

“ . . . like you are very fancy,” said Keisha.

“ . . . like wearing very fancy stuff . . . like beads or headbands or hats,” said Miguel.

“But everybody was dressed alike, said Pritka.

“So, Monique just wanted to be different,” said Felino.

“Yeah, so she wore the red hat,” said Pritka.

Cara started to giggle again. “Monique’s hat looked like a tomato,” she said. “Really funny!”

“But it doesn’t matter what you wear,” said Hannah.

"If I were unique, I would be different," said Felino.

"Well, unique means one of a kind," said Pritka. "And well, I'm the only Indian in my class."

Hannah sighed, "What makes me unique is I feel like the only German person in New Jersey," she said.

". . . and I have the most freckles," said Keisha.

"It feels like I'm the only one with glasses," said Juan. "I don't see many people in the world with glasses."

"And some people look alike," said Hannah.

"And some have different colored skin or different colored hair," said Zach.

"But they may have a difference that you can't see, too," said Hannah.

"Right, so they are all unique . . . in their own way," said Lily. "Some people have different languages . . . like Chinese, American, Turkish . . . whatever."

"Well," said Pritka thinking. "I think this book talks to people who need to wear uniforms. It lets them know they can still be different and they can make a difference in their lives. They don't always have to be the same."

"Yeah, all different!" said Lily. "Not exactly the same. Even twins aren't exactly the same."